

## Discipline-Based Professional Teaching Standards For Teachers Of Elementary Education

### **I. Development, Learning and Motivation**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use major concepts, principles, theories and research related to the continuum of development of children from pre-kindergarten through early adolescence. They construct learning opportunities that support the development, learning and motivation of the individual child.

### **II. Curriculum**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use central concepts, tools of inquiry and structures of content for students across the elementary grades. They connect concepts, procedures and applications from content areas to build understanding, and encourage the application of knowledge, skills and ideas to real-world situations. Elementary teachers create meaningful learning experiences for various developmental levels that develop students' competence and skills:

#### **A. Literacy**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use concepts from reading, writing, language and child development, to teach reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and acting. Teachers help students use these concepts to construct meaning, to compose their own oral and written texts, and to interpret and respond to the compositions of others.

#### **B. Numeracy**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use concepts and skills inherent in numeracy to enable their students to represent physical events, work with data, reason, communicate mathematically, and make connections within math and to other content areas, as well as to the world around them, in order to solve problems.

#### **C. Science**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use concepts of science, including physical, life and Earth sciences and their interrelationships. They engage students in the inquiry process that involves asking questions, collecting data through the use of senses and simple measurement tools, evaluating information and presenting answers.

#### **D. Social Studies**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use major concepts and modes of inquiry from social studies to promote students' abilities to participate in a culturally diverse democratic society. They provide opportunities for students to investigate topics related to themselves, their families, their communities and the world around them.

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**E. The Arts**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use the content, functions and achievements of dance, music, theater and the visual arts as primary media for self-expression, communication, inquiry and insight among students.

**F. Health**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use the comprehensive nature of students' physical, mental, emotional and social well-being to create opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and practice necessary to achieve and maintain wellness.

**G. Physical Education**

Elementary teachers know, understand and use movement and physical activity as central elements to foster active, healthy lifestyles and to enhance the quality of life for students.

**III. Aspects of Character**

Elementary teachers know, understand and practice core ideals of caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility and respect for self and others. They create opportunities for students to work cooperatively, reach consensus, plan and carry out community service projects, and develop practical understanding of the requirements of these ideals.

**IV. Habits of Mind**

Elementary teachers foster dispositions that enable students to be lifelong learners and problem solvers. They cultivate students' abilities to persevere, think independently and be self-motivated and confident learners. Elementary teachers encourage their students to adapt to new situations, be open to new ideas, develop insight, be self-reflective, and be willing to have their work examined by peers in order to further learning.